



Lake Gordonsville 2007



Lake Gordonsville, also known as Bowler's Mill Lake, is one of the many smaller impoundments throughout Virginia that harbor excellent warm water fish populations. The Louisa County Parks and Recreation Department administers this 75-acre lake, which is loaded with largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and redear sunfish. Channel catfish are also being stocked on a regular basis. The primary fisheries management goal for this lake is to provide a balanced fishery for bass and sunfish, while providing a supplemental fishery for channel catfish. A gravel ramp is available and shore fishing access is good. There are no boat rentals or other facilities.

The lake was sampled using electrofishing during spring, 2006. The largemouth bass population had changed little since the previous survey was done during 2002; it was still in great shape. Bass of all sizes were plentiful. This lake has consistently ranked as one of the best in central Virginia for bass longer than 15 inches. A total of five bass longer than 20 inches was collected.

The abundance of bluegill appears to have risen since the last survey and compared with historical levels. Unfortunately, the size structure and body condition were very poor. At the same time, the abundance of redear sunfish appears to have increased markedly, but their size structure and body condition were also poor. Increased recruitment of both of these species may have resulted in increased competition for food. These populations will not improve unless their numbers are thinned.

Black crappie were collected in good numbers, but the size structure was not of high quality. However, shoreline electrofishing is not the best method for sampling adult crappie in late-April when most of the largest fish may be offshore.

Finally, chain pickerel added a little spice to the sample. Though not abundant in most lakes, they appear to be reproducing well in the vegetated marshy area at the head of the Lake Gordonsville. They don't, however, appear to be the source of too much competition for the abundant bass.